

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 30, 2007, has been received and carefully considered. In this response, claims 15-19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Cancellation of claims 15-19 without prejudice is respectfully requested. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is also respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. THE DOUBLE-PATENTING REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-14

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-14 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-28 of U.S. Patent No. 6,388,890 and over claims 2 and 19-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,545,876.

To expedite the prosecution of the present patent application toward finality, this rejection is hereby respectfully traversed with the filing of terminal disclaimers concurrently herewith. It should be noted, however, that the filing of terminal disclaimers in the present patent application does not constitute an admission of the propriety of the obviousness-type double-patenting rejection. See MPEP § 804.02 and Quad Environmental Technologies Corp. v. Union Sanitary District, 946 F.2d 870, 20 USPQ2d 1392 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned double-patenting rejection of claims 1-14 be withdrawn.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

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Client Reference No.: 15856ROUS01I

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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